A Radio Message for YOU!

The Mission Trail

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"LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS; FOR THEY ARE WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST." — JOHN 4:35

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A New Year - New Opportunities for God

Radio Broadcast for week of December 31, 1967--(See back page for list of stations)

The New Year

I am the New Year, and I come to you
pure and unstained,
Fresh from the hand of God.
Each day, a precious pearl to you is
given
That you must string upon the silver
thread of Life.
Once strung it can never be unthreaded
but stays
An undying record of your faith and skill.
Each golden minute link you then must
weld into the chain of hours
That is no stronger than its weakest
link.
Into your hands is given all the wealth
and power
To make your life just what you will.
I give to you, free and unstinted, twelve
glorious months
Of soothing rain and sunshine golden;
The days for work and rest, the nights
for peaceful slumber.
All that I have I give with love unspoken.
All that I ask--you keep the faith un-
broken!

Friends, I hope you like the thought expressed in those words. It seems that I can see new opportunities before us in the year which is just ahead.

Do you realize that today is December 31, the closing of another year? 1967 is almost a matter of record. We cannot undo or change our actions which we have done throughout the old year. I believe that we should realize our dependency upon God and that we should consider our weaknesses--yes, perhaps even our shortcomings in the year which is almost gone. But I hope that we will not look at our failures so long that we will fail to lift up our eyes and see the possibilities before us as we launch into this new year with renewed hope and courage to accomplish more for God than we have ever done in the past.

Listen to this scripture from the 13th chapter of Luke, beginning at verse 6. "He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vine-yard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said un-to him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down."

Here is a parable which our Lord gave of a man who had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. Perhaps he had watched the tree closely from year to year to see if it was going to ever bear any fruit, and each time that he came to the vineyard there was that barren fig

tree without a sign of a fig on it. This went on for a period of time. In fact, the scriptures say three years. One day this good man decided that he had waited long enough. There was no need to look for fruit if the tree was never going to bear any. So he made a decision that day which was, no doubt, a painful decision. I wonder if it was not a little hard to decide, but he did decide and here is what he said, "Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?"

You see, this tree not only failed to yield fruit, but it was occupying time and space which could be put to better use. Hence the decision was made to cut it down. I wonder if there should be some listening to the broadcast today who feel that they have wasted their lives. They have actually accomplished so very little in life.

I am reminded of the excuse which we so often hear from people who are not really giving their lives to God. In speaking of a Christian life they say, "I have tried it before. Again and again I nave failed, therefore, I am not going to try it anymore until I know I can live it." Well, it is a good thing to have a firm decision that when you try it you are going to put all the effort you have into it, but the trouble is that many times people never put forth that supreme effort. In other words, they do not try as hard as they should. Then they lament their past failures and never seem to get started on the right road.

But wait a moment. I have some good news for you, friends. Listen to what the dresser of the vineyard said when this man wanted to cut his fig tree down. "And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down." You see, the dresser of the vineyard was going to give it one more chance. He was going to do his very best to get this tree to produce fruit the next season. I would like to think (although the scriptures do not say so) that the tree did produce fruit the next year.

You see, I believe that sometimes the Lord allows failures to come into our lives for a reason and a purpose. Then we accomplish more when the next opportunity comes than we could have possibly done before we realized our dependency upon God.

Therefore, let us sum it up this way. Closely examine your motives, your aspirations, and either failures or success of the past year and then use all the experience which you have gained from them to accomplish even more in the new year of 1968 which is just ahead of us. Friends, we don't know what a year may hold, but let us purpose firmly in our heart to make our decision for God and for truth and stand upon his Word even to the very end. Let us not make the same mistakes which we have made before. Neither let us lament our failures or the lost opportunities of the year which is gone to the extent that we fail to bring forth fruit for God.

Did you ever hear of the illustration of the farmer which owned the old mule and the mule fell in the well? There he was down in the bottom of the well unable to climb out. It looked as if the mule had made his last and fatal mistake. When the boys asked their father what to do about it, the farmer made one of those hard-to-make decisions. "Throw the dirt in the well and bury

the old mule." And that is just what the boys began to do. They shoveled in the dirt, but do you know what the old mule did? He shook himself, and the dirt fell beneath his feet. All the while his feet were also on the move. You can see what would happen. When the well was filled, instead of the mule being buried, he walked out of there ready to go again.

Friends, let us profit from this illustration. Let not the failures and shortcomings of the year which is past prevent us from arising and putting into action that which has been long overdue. Another chance, another year is before you. Use it to the glory of God.

I hope that God's people will hear the Macedonian call to "Come over into Macedonia and help us." Let us pray that God's word and truth may spread even more in these closing days of time. What we do for God we must do shortly. Opportunities are constantly being lost and doors in many lands are closing against the gospel. Shall we be faithful in 1968? Let us pray.

Our Father,

On the threshold of the passing of another year into history and the coming of a new year, our hopes and aspirations are firmly fixed in thee. Bless each one who hears the broadcast and give them the strength and courage which they need to be faithful throughout the coming year, and to thee we will give the praise through Christ our Lord. Amen

Now friends, may I take just a moment to tell you that this short message has been brought to you by THE MISSION TRAIL of Guthrie, Oklahoma. This is Willie Murphey speaking to you.

We desire your prayers and co-operation as we enter by faith into the new year, trusting God to keep His word on the air and in the mail. If you would like a printed copy of today's message, let us know. They are free without cost or obligation. If we may be of any help to you write us. Address your letter to: The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Oklahoma. Be with us again next week at this same time on this same station for another broadcast of The Mission Trail.

Here now is a song, "Blest Rock of Ages". The singers are Lynn and Alma Carver, Arnett Carver and Manuel Mitchell.

It has been a real pleasure to bring you this message today from THE MISSION TRAIL of Guthrie, Oklahoma. Until we meet again this is Willie Murphey wishing each of you a very prosperous and happy new year, and may the Lord's richest blessings be with each one of you. A very cheerful good-bye!

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Meditations With God

As I sat alone in meditation
Jesus came and spoke so sweet
Why do you not come more often
And sit low at my feet?
I will teach my will unto you
If you'll linger there and wait.
I will teach my ways unto you
Bring you to your full estate.
There is much in store that's waiting
Riches for you to explore.
I have many treasures for you,
And I'll give you more and more.
If you want my presence with you,
If you want my spirit's power,
Then you must serve me fully
Each day and every hour.

--Rada Watkins

Testimonies

From Ohio: "Dear saints at the Mission Trail, Greetings to you in the name of our beloved Saviour. Truly I thank my Jesus today for being able . . . to write you this day. My heart is rejoicing because my Jesus abides within. During this Christmas season as I was down town doing some shopping as I saw the many people cumbered about with the cares of this fleeting life, my heart was made to be glad and so very thankful that I am 'in the world' but not 'of the world'. Surely I pray God to keep me from the evil. . . I by the mercies of God enjoy the good news sent to me by the Mission Trail. You are on my prayer list night and day, and I pray I am on yours. . . May our God bless you 'exceedingly abundantly above all you think or ask' is my prayer. In Christian love," --Sis. Kay Williams

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From Illinois: "Dear Mission Trail workers, Greetings of Christian love in the name of our wonderful Lord. I do enjoy the Mission Trail very much. I read it two or three times. Many of the letters I am not personally acquainted with, but God's people are my people. I do love the truth, and may God bless every effort you put forth to give the truth to the world, for that is the great need of the world today. I am alone--just me and God, but praise His dear name, He takes good care of me, and I realize it. Remember me in prayer for I do want to live close to God and his dear Son. . . I love salvation that saves from sin and not in it as some preach. I would sure be afraid to add to or take from God's word. I believe every thing will be done as God's word says it will, or, in fact, I know it will. Love and prayers to all there,"

--Sister Bertha A. Gill

From Arkansas: "Dear Bro. and Sister Murphey and family, Greetings of love to you all in the name of Jesus. Hope this finds you all well and enjoying life and salvation. Yes, we want to be kept on your mailing list as we enjoy reading The Mission Trail paper. I most always read it through before laying it down. I also enjoy looking at the pictures but was made so sad when I saw Sister Mable Doolittle's picture and read about her death. I met her where we went to church in Los Angeles where Bro. Stover was pastor. I wasn't very well acquainted with them but well remember them. She and Bro. Francis would sit together, and one of their sons most always sat with them. . . That was about 20 or 21 or 22 yrs. ago. . .

"If I live until Jan. 26. I will be 84, and I want to get closer to the Lord and do more for Him what time I have left than I have done in the past, for I do want to make Heaven at any cost. I need more overcoming grace, more patience in suffering and affliction although I am thankful to the dear Lord for what strength He does give me. . . Do remember us in earnest prayer. . . "

--Kate Dotson

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From Oregon: "Dear Brother and family, I am sending $2.00 to help in your good work. I want the little paper Mission Trail to continue to me. I enjoy it. I am isolated from the saints but not from the Lord. I am serving the best I know how. I have a beautiful new home here in La Grande. About 70 old people, and how we need the Lord, just ready to step over into eternity. I fear many are not ready. I am doing all I can to help. They asked me to return thanks at the table. I thought that was good. I go and pray for different sick ones. O, do pray for me, the Lord will use me to help these dear souls. . ." --O. K. Myers

at press time

we understand:

The Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting for 1967 is now a matter of history, but we believe the results which were accomplished by the presence of the Lord in the lives of those who attended will be long remembered. God sent capable ministers to proclaim His word which went forth under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. It did not return void for many of those who needed spiritual help came forward and humbly knelt at an altar of prayer where sins were forgiven and pardon and peace filled their hearts. The enlarged chapel adequately furnished room for all who came. On Saturday, December the 30th ten followed the Lord in baptism. It was good to feel the fellowship and love of the saints as they met together in worship of our Saviour and King.

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Another faithful saint for many years has been called to her eternal reward. We regret the death of Sister Bessie Gordon who had lived in Wichita, Kansas but recently was staying in Oklahoma City where she died last week. Her funeral was on Sunday, December 31 in Hennessey, Oklahoma.

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Bro. Leslie Busbee who attended most of the Pacoima, California camp-meeting reports that more consecrated help is needed for the Senior Citizens' Home there. Responsibilities are great and the few who are laboring in that capacity do not have sufficient time for the dear aged ones. If you can help, write Ostis B. Wilson, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, California 91331.

From Oklahoma: "To the Mission Trail, Holy holiday greetings. Am still shut-in from burn received July 31, 1967, but more encouraged as these tortuous days go by to see the end of a Christian race, in touch with the God of all grace. . . We need your prayers,"

--Sister Ethel Miles

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From Arkansas: ". . . the Lord is so good to His people. I could never do without Him. Pray for my lost loved ones. I want to be ready when He calls me." --Mrs. Luster Jones

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"Then the angels told the shepherds just where to find Him, and so they did. To find means to meet with, encounter or come face to face. This brought 'great joy' to the shepherds.

"But where shall we find Him. The Hebrew children saw Him in the fiery furnace. Daniel met Him in the lion's den. Job found Him in a severe trial. The disciples saw Him waiting for them on the seashore. Yes, He is waiting today for the ones who are anxious to find Him. Why? To fulfill His purpose of coming nearly 2000 years ago, all because He loves us so. This brings 'great joy' at Christmas time, and this is just the 'joy' we're wishing you." --Lou Bray and children

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As we begin this new year in the service of the Lord we desire your prayers and co-operation that we may be faithful stewards in the winning of souls by the gospel and wisely use that which God has entrusted to us.

THE MISSION TRAIL, originating in Guthrie, Okla., is broadcast by radio and published weekly in printed form by Willie and Frances Murphey with the help of others. It is mailed free of charge to those who request it. Its purpose is to reach the hungry hearts of the unsaved everywhere with the gospel which will save them. Its principal support comes from the free will contributions of its listeners and readers. Those who feel directed by the Lord to assist may do so by sending their offering to: THE MISSION TRAIL, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

For some it will come true: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20. Let us hasten with the message which Jesus gave: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Broadcast Schedule

Listen for THE MISSION TRAIL weekly on one of the following stations:

RADIO STATION	LOCATION	DIAL SETTING	TIME
KXOW	Hot Springs, Ark.	1420 kc.	Sunday, 7:15 a.m.
KCRS	Midland, Texas	550 kc.	Sunday, 7:45 a.m.
KCLO	Leavenworth, Kans.	1410 kc.	Sunday, 3:00 p.m.
WFPR	Hammond, La.	1400 kc.	Sunday, 7:45 a.m.
KCKW	Jena, La.	1480 kc.	Sunday, 7:30 a.m.
KCIJ	Shreveport, La.	980 kc.	Sunday, 7:30 a.m.

The Mission Trail
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